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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/885,050	06/21/2001	Daniel Guy Pomerleau	PAT 362-2	3639

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EXAMINER	
ST CYR, DANIEL	
ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER

2876

DATE MAILED: 07/11/2002

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary	Application No.	Applicant(s)
	09/885,050	POMERLEAU ET AL.
	Examiner Daniel St.Cyr	Art Unit 2876

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133).
- Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

1) Responsive to communication(s) filed on 21 June 2001.

2a) This action is FINAL. 2b) This action is non-final.

3) Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

4) Claim(s) 1-13 is/are pending in the application.

4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.

5) Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.

6) Claim(s) 1-13 is/are rejected.

7) Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.

8) Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

9) The specification is objected to by the Examiner.

10) The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) accepted or b) objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).

11) The proposed drawing correction filed on _____ is: a) approved b) disapproved by the Examiner.
If approved, corrected drawings are required in reply to this Office action.

12) The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 119 and 120

13) Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).

a) All b) Some * c) None of:
 1. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

14) Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(e) (to a provisional application).
a) The translation of the foreign language provisional application has been received.

15) Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 120 and/or 121.

Attachment(s)

1) Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
 2) Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
 3) Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449) Paper No(s) _____.
 4) Interview Summary (PTO-413) Paper No(s) _____.
 5) Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
 6) Other: _____

DETAILED ACTION

Information Disclosure Statement

1. The information disclosure statement filed 7/26/01 has not been considered because the applicant failed to provide the date of the prior art.

Specification

2. The abstract of the disclosure is objected to because on line "cheque" should be changed to --check--. Correction is required.

Claim Objections

3. Claims 2-7 and 9-13 are objected to because of the following informalities:

Claims 2-7 10-12, line "A" should be change to -- The --.

Claims 3, 9, and 13, "cheque" should be changed to --check--.

Appropriate correction is required.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

4. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

5. Claims 1-8, 10-12 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Sloane, US patent No. 5,918,211.

Sloane discloses a method and apparatus for promoting products and influencing consumer purchasing decision at the point of purchase comprising: a consumer 14 using a portable bar code scanner device 20 to scan a shelf label or product 18 having a UPC code. The

portable scanner 20. Once the consumer scans the shelf label or product 18, portable bar code scanner 20 transmits the product code information to the retailer computer/controller 12 via wireless transmission medium 202. The wireless transmission of information can be performed by any suitable known means, such as, for example, radio frequencies (RF), infrared, cellular, shortwave, and any other known method of transmitting and receiving information without use of direct wire connections (see figure 2; col. 7, line 42+).

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

6. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

7. This application currently names joint inventors. In considering patentability of the claims under 35 U.S.C. 103(a), the examiner presumes that the subject matter of the various claims was commonly owned at the time any inventions covered therein were made absent any evidence to the contrary. Applicant is advised of the obligation under 37 CFR 1.56 to point out the inventor and invention dates of each claim that was not commonly owned at the time a later invention was made in order for the examiner to consider the applicability of 35 U.S.C. 103(c) and potential 35 U.S.C. 102(e), (f) or (g) prior art under 35 U.S.C. 103(a).

8. Claims 8 and 13 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Sloane. The teachings of Sloane have been discussed above.

Sloane does not disclose or fairly suggests using a check as a means of payment.

However, it is notorious old and well-known in the art to use checks, such as personal checks, business checks, as means for paying for transactions. Therefore, it would have been an obvious for an artisan to modify Sloane's system by incorporating means for accepting checks for providing customers an alternate means for paying for their good, which would make the system more versatile and more convenient. Therefore, it would have been an obvious extension as taught by Sloane.

Conclusion

9. The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure. Trotta, Jr., US Patent No. 5,595,264, discloses a system and method for automated shopping. Swartz et al, US Patent No. 6,243,447, disclose a self-service checkout system utilizing portable communications terminal. Murphy et al, US Patent No. 6,354,496, disclose a method for self service checkout. Morrison et al, US Patent No. 6,382,357, disclose a retail system for allowing a customer to perform a retail transaction and associated method.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Daniel St.Cyr whose telephone number is 703-305-2656. The examiner can normally be reached on Mon-Fri.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Michael G Lee can be reached on 703-305-3503. The fax phone numbers for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned are 703-308-7721 for regular communications and 703-308-7724 for After Final communications.

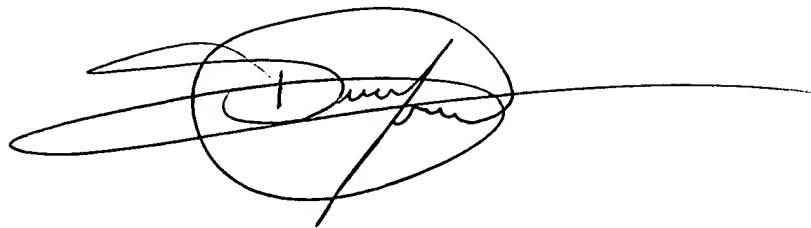
Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application or proceeding should be directed to the receptionist whose telephone number is 703-308-0956.

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Daniel St.Cyr
Examiner
Art Unit 2876

DS
July 1, 2002

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Daniel St.Cyr", is enclosed within a large, roughly circular oval. The oval is formed by a thick, continuous line that loops back on itself, with the signature positioned in the center. The signature itself is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Daniel" and the last name "St.Cyr" being the most distinct parts.